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United States
Department of
Agriculture

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2015

Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River

Regulations to Protect Fossil Creek, Coconino and Tonto National Forests



Forest Service
Southwestern
Region

RG-R3-04-04

Slightly revised
May 2015

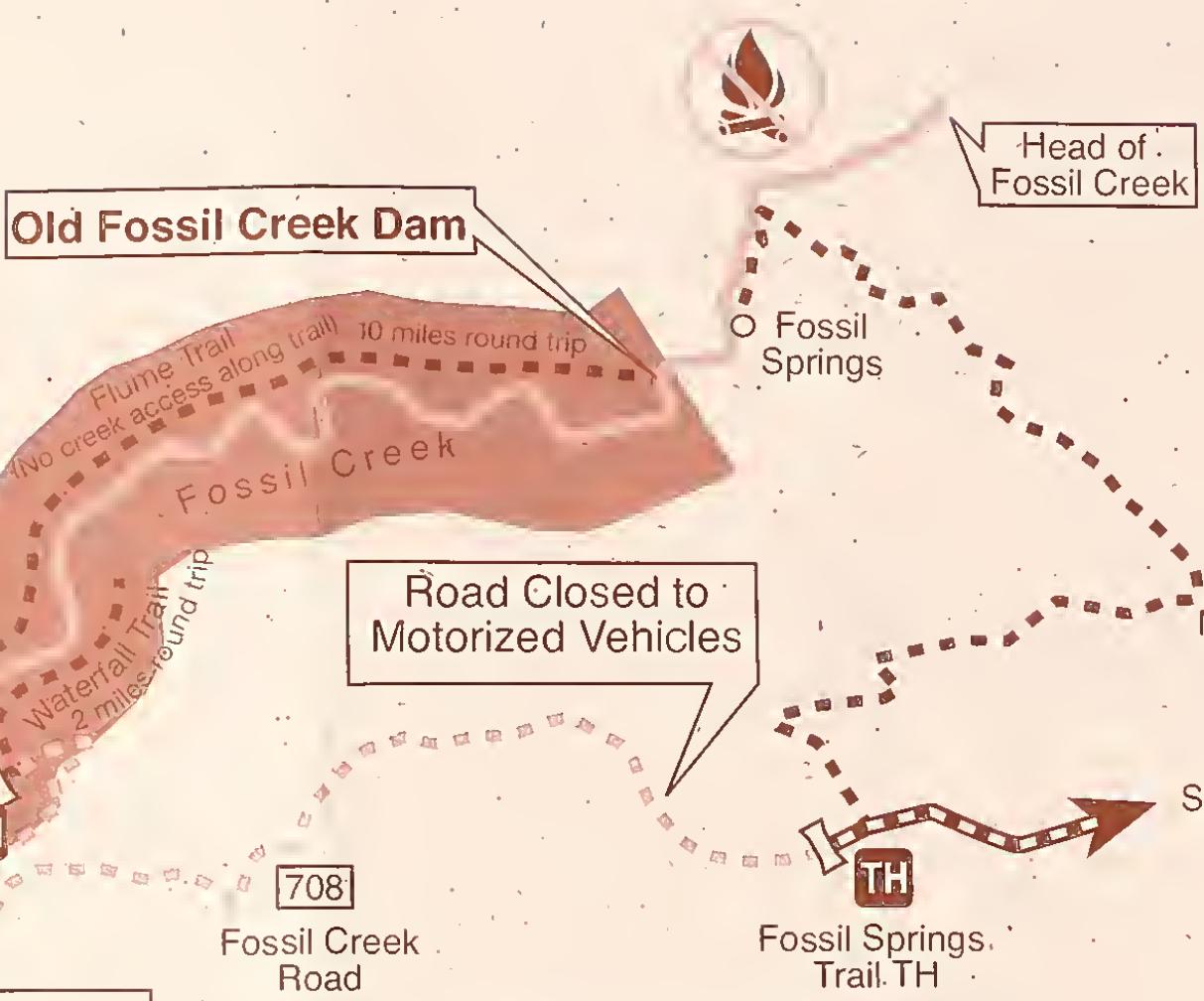
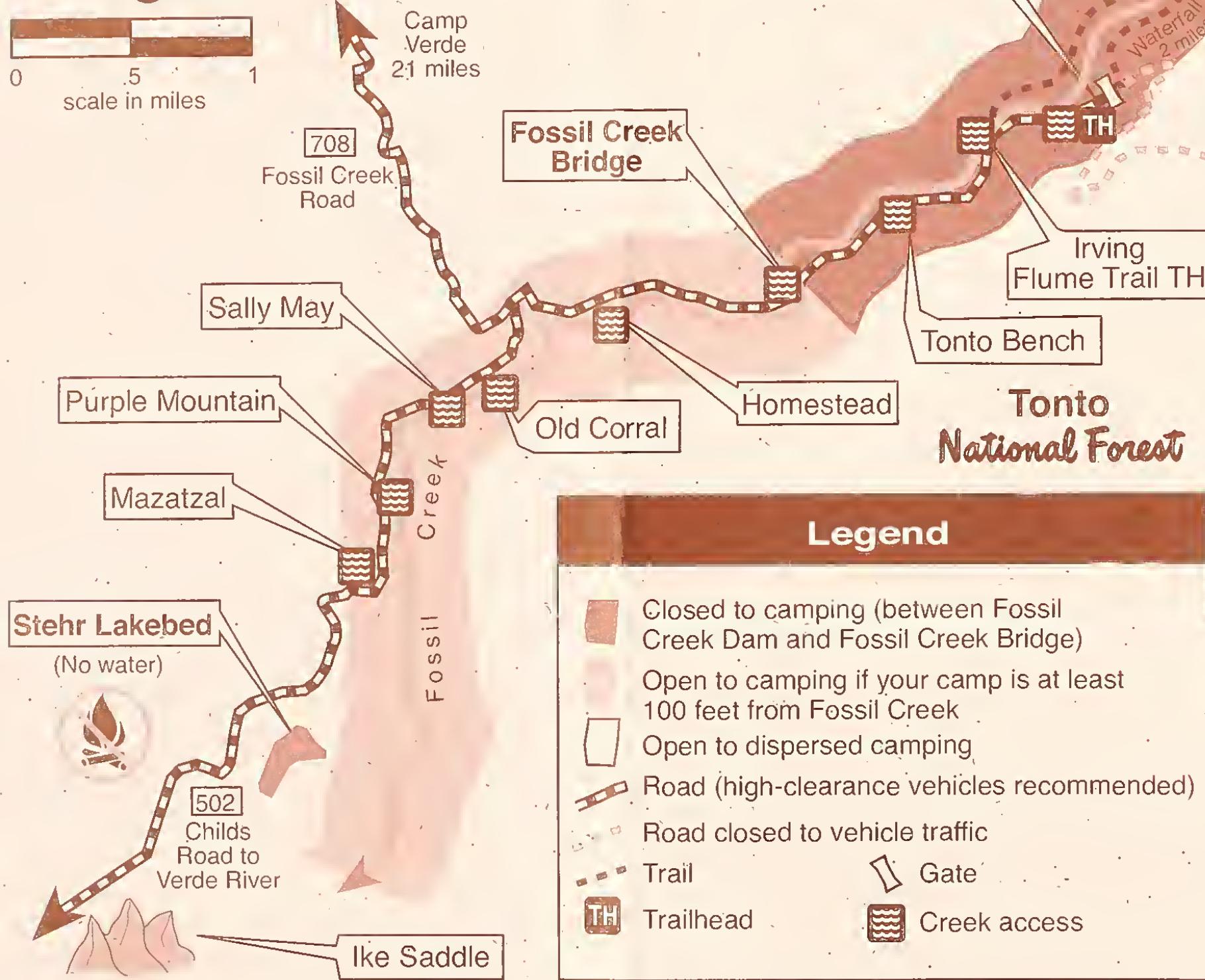
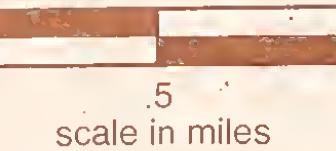
Fossil Creek Area

Campfires are prohibited between the head of Fossil Creek and Ike Saddle.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS



RESTRICCIONES PARA FUEGO



Information Hotline: (928) 226-4611

FS Road 708

Forest Service Road 708 is closed from the Strawberry side until further notice. This closure is in effect to provide for public health and safety.

Camino de FS 708

El camino de Servicio Forestal 708 está cerrado del lado de Strawberry hasta el Nuevo aviso. Este cierre debe asegurar en efecto la salud pública y la seguridad.

Regulaciones del Área de Fossil Creek

Es su responsabilidad conocer y obedecer las Reglas de la Forestal Nacional. La violación de dichas normas será sancionada con una multa de hasta \$5,000 y/o 6 meses de cárcel.

- Se prohíbe acampar dentro del $\frac{1}{4}$ de milla de Fossil Creek (desde el viejo Fossil Creek Dam hasta río abajo de Fossil Creek Bridge).
- Se permite acampar desde el río abajo de Fossil Creek Bridge. El campo se tiene que encontrar más que a 100 pies de la orilla del Río. Se permite acampar superior del viejo Fossil Creek Dam.
- Se prohíbe hacer fuegos dentro del $\frac{1}{4}$ de milla de Fossil Creek (desde la cabeza de Fossil Creek hasta 12 millas del río abajo de Ike Saddle cerca del poste de la milla 4 en FR 502).
- Los contenedores de bebida y comida en envases de cristal son prohibidos dentro del área del Rio Salvaje y Escénia entera.
- Se prohíbe conducir por fuera de la carretera.
- Se prohíbe la construcción de nuevos campos o mejorar de los antiguos campos.

What Makes Fossil Creek Special?

Fossil Creek is one of only two wild and scenic rivers in Arizona.

Fossil Creek is fed by springs coming from the cliffs of the Mogollon Rim. Over 30 million gallons of water are discharged each day at a constant 70 °F. The high mineral content leaves travertine dams and deposits, giving rise to fossil-like features.

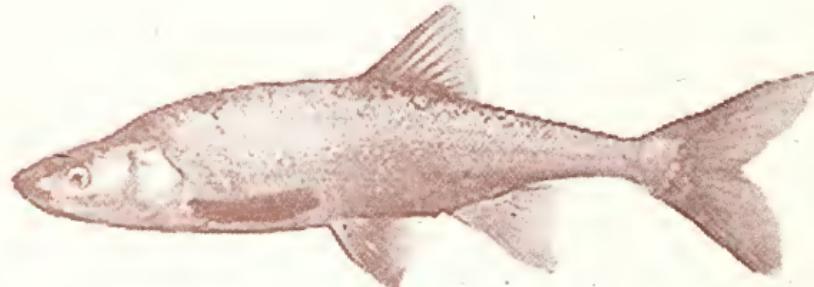
In 2005, Arizona Public Service (APS) decommissioned the Fossil Creek Dam and Flume, restoring full flows to Fossil Creek.

Fossil Creek is a rare riparian area within an otherwise arid landscape. Many plants and wildlife depend on Fossil Creek for habitat, including otters, beavers, leopard frogs, and common black hawks.

Fossil Creek has a number of *Dilzhé'é* (Western Apache) cultural sites. The *Dilzhé'é* lived along Fossil Creek for generations and several families consider this to be their homeland.

Native-Only Fishery

After massive efforts, Fossil Creek is now a native only fishery. It is illegal to introduce, release, or move any fish, amphibian, or crayfish into or around Fossil Creek. Fossil Creek is a **seasonal** catch and release fishery for roundtail chub and headwater chub. It is an artificial fly and lure fishery, and only single barbless hooks may be used. It is your responsibility to know and observe Arizona Game and Fish Department regulations.



Roundtail chub by John Rinne

Attention— Rules for You at Fossil Creek

The Forest Service has rules for camping, fires, glass containers, and off-road driving for the Fossil Creek area. More than 100,000 people visit this area each year. Because of the heavy use, Fossil Creek is being “loved to death”—damaged by wood cutting, fires, new roads, trash, and human waste.



In 2009, Fossil Creek was designated by Congress as a national wild and scenic river. The Forest Service must, by law, protect this special place. Over the next few years, the Forest Service will work with the public to develop a long-term plan for the area. In the meantime, interim rules aim to protect the Fossil Creek area. Please respect and abide by the rules listed on the map side of this brochure.

How Can You Help?

- Obey all camping and fire rules.
- Stay on designated roads and trails.
- Use the provided porta-potties or bury your waste 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet from any water source.
- **Bag your trash and take it home.**

Please respect the river!

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Acquisitions and Metadata Branch
The Arizona Water Protection

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For More Information . . .

Or to comment or become involved in the long-term planning for Fossil Creek, contact:

Coconino National Forest
1824 S. Thompson Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-2529
Phone: (928) 527-3600

Or Visit:

www.fs.usda.gov/coconino

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